Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to ~~focus or~~ direct electromagnetic energy ~~into~~ along a path from the source of electromagnetic energy to an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface, the source of electromagnetic energy being constructed to focus or direct a peak concentration of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing and comprising a ball roller, the at least one contacting leg being constructed to contact a surface with the ball roller and to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed along the path and into the interaction zone, the at least one contacting leg being coupled to the housing in such a way that the ball roller does not intersect the path; and

a fluid output constructed to place fluid into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the fluid causing the fluid to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 41, wherein:

the surface contacted by the at least one contacting leg is in close vicinity to the target surface; and

the fluid output comprises a moisture output constructed to place moisture into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of infrared electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, the infrared electromagnetic energy from
the source of infrared electromagnetic energy being absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the infrared electromagnetic energy by the moisture
causing the moisture to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

3. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the surface contacted by the at least one contacting leg is the target surface.

4. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a plurality of contacting legs, each of the contacting legs having a proximal end and a distal end, and the distal ends of the contacting legs having rounded feet.

5. Cancelled.

6. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the apparatus further comprises a suction source.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 6, wherein both the moisture output and the suction source are disposed in the at least one contacting leg.

8. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a hemispherical shape to surround the interaction zone when the at least one contacting leg is in contact with the target surface.

9. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

the at least one contacting leg comprises a concave shape to surround the interaction zone when the at least one contacting leg is in contact with the target surface;

the apparatus further comprises a suction source; and

the moisture output and the suction source are both disposed in the at least one contacting leg so that the moisture output directs moisture in a direction generally toward the suction source, and so that the interaction zone is disposed generally between the moisture output and the suction source.

10. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the moisture output comprises an atomizer.

11. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the source of infrared electromagnetic energy is constructed to deliver a peak concentration of infrared electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, the peak concentration of infrared electromagnetic energy being greater than a concentration of infrared electromagnetic energy delivered onto the target surface.

12. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the source of infrared electromagnetic energy comprises a fiber tip which terminates at a boundary of the interaction zone.

13. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the source of infrared electromagnetic energy comprises at least one reflector and a window.

14. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the fiber tip can be readily removed and replaced by a hand of a user.

15. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, wherein the fiber tip terminates at a distance of between 3 and 5 millimeters from the target surface when the at least one contacting leg is in contact with the target surface.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

the infrared electromagnetic energy from the source of infrared electromagnetic energy is highly absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone;

the interaction zone is substantially bounded in a dimension, measured in a direction parallel to a direction of propagation of the infrared electromagnetic radiation, that is no larger than about 5 mm from the target surface when the at least one contacting leg is contacting the target surface; and

an amount of moisture extending beyond the 5 mm boundary of the interaction zone in a path of the infrared electromagnetic radiation is negligible, so that an amount of absorption of the infrared electromagnetic radiation by the moisture beyond the 5 mm boundary does not detectably alter the cutting power of

the apparatus, compared to a cutting power that the apparatus would have if no moisture extended beyond the 5 mm boundary of the interaction zone.

18. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the infrared electromagnetic energy from the source of infrared electromagnetic energy has a wavelength which is highly absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone.

19. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the infrared electromagnetic energy from the source of infrared electromagnetic energy has a wavelength which is not highly absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone.

20. (Previously Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein:

the source of infrared electromagnetic energy comprises a fiber optic having an output end; and

the moisture output is constructed to output moisture onto the output end of the fiber optic.

21. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the disruptive forces,

as distinguished from purely thermal cutting forces, generate cutting forces suitable for cutting or ablating skin placed within or adjacent to the interaction zone.

22. Cancelled.

23. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the moisture from the moisture output comprises water.

24. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the moisture output comprises a mixing chamber.

25. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 24, wherein the moisture from the moisture output comprises water.

26. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a cylindrical shape to surround the interaction zone when the at least one contacting leg is in contact with the target surface.

27. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises an enclosure with an oval-shaped edge for contacting and surrounding the target surface.

28. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises an enclosure with a rectangular-shaped edge for contacting and surrounding the target surface.

29. (Original) A method of imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

focusing or directing electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone above the target surface;

simultaneously placing moisture into the interaction zone so that at least portions of the electromagnetic energy in the interaction zone are highly absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone; and

focusing or directing electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone without any simultaneous placement of moisture above the plurality of points.

30. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein the step of simultaneously placing moisture into the interaction zone comprises a step of simultaneously placing moisture comprising an anesthetic and a vasal constrictor into the interaction zone.

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31. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

focusing or directing electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone above the target surface whereby the electromagnetic energy is moved over ~~at least a part of~~ substantially an entire treatment area of the target surface during a first time period;

placing first amounts of moisture into the interaction zone during the first time period;

focusing or directing electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone above the target surface whereby the electromagnetic energy is moved over substantially the same ~~part~~ treatment area of the target surface during a second time period; and

placing second amounts of moisture into the interaction zone during the second time period, the second amounts of moisture being less than the first amounts of moisture.

32. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein the step of simultaneously placing first amounts of moisture into the interaction zone comprises a step of simultaneously placing first amounts of moisture comprising an anesthetic and a vasal constrictor into the interaction zone and wherein the second amounts of moisture contain no or lower concentrations of anesthetic and vasal constrictor than the first amounts.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to focus or direct a peak concentration of electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing, the at least one contacting leg being constructed to contact the target surface and to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed into the interaction zone; ~~and~~

a moisture output constructed to simultaneously place moisture into close proximity of the interaction zone simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone; and

a source of suction disposed in the at least one contacting leg, the source of suction comprising at least one orifice and being constructed to receive through the orifice and into the at least one contacting leg moisture from the moisture output;

wherein substantially all of the parts therein are fixed and do not move so that the electromagnetic energy directed into an interaction zone is not scanned relative to the housing.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to focus or direct electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing, the at least one contacting leg being constructed to contact a surface and to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed into the interaction zone; ~~and~~

C3 Cont'd

a moisture output constructed to simultaneously place moisture into close proximity of the interaction zone simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone; and

a source of suction disposed in the at least one contacting leg, the source of suction comprising at least one orifice and being constructed to receive moisture from the moisture output through the orifice and into the at least one contacting leg;

wherein at least one of (a) substantially all of the at least one contacting leg and (b) at least part of the housing adjacent to the contacting leg, comprises a transparent material.

35. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the target surface contacted by the at least one contacting leg is in close proximity to the target surface.

36. Cancelled.

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37. (Currently Amended) An method of imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface,

comprising:

scanning electromagnetic energy above a plurality of points of the target surface;

simultaneously placing moisture above the plurality of points so that at least portions of the electromagnetic energy above the plurality of points are substantially absorbed by the moisture above the plurality of points; and

scanning electromagnetic energy above the plurality of points of the target surface without any simultaneous placement of moisture above the plurality of points.

38. (Previously Amended) A method of imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

scanning electromagnetic energy above a plurality of points of the target surface;

simultaneously placing first amounts of moisture above the plurality of points;

scanning electromagnetic energy above the plurality of points of the target surface; and

simultaneously placing second amounts of moisture above the plurality of points, the second amounts of moisture being less than the first amounts of moisture.

39. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the fluid output comprises water and an additive having lubricating properties for facilitating operation of the ball roller.

40. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the fluid output comprises soft water.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the source of electromagnetic radiation comprises a source of infrared electromagnetic ~~radiation~~ energy constructed to focus ~~on~~ or direct infrared electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone.

42. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein in addition to the disruptive forces imparted onto or within the target surface the apparatus imparts thermal cutting forces and coagulation onto or within the target surface.

43. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the fluid output comprises water and is constructed to simultaneously place water into the interaction zone so that the at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy is absorbed by the at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone.

44. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic energy comprises laser energy from an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

45. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic energy comprises laser energy from an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

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46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic energy comprises laser energy from ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

47. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic energy comprises laser energy from a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

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48. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein the step of simultaneously placing moisture into the interaction zone comprises simultaneously placing water into the interaction zone.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or

directing laser energy from an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

C7 cont'd

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 29, wherein at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

53. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein the first amounts of moisture comprise a first composition, the second amounts of moisture comprise a second composition, and the first composition is different than the second composition.

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54. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 31~~a~~, wherein the first amounts of moisture comprise an anesthetic.

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein at least one of the step of placing first amounts of moisture into the

interaction zone and the step of placing second amounts of moisture into the interaction zone comprises placing water into the interaction zone.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:

the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy during a first time period is preceded by a step of providing an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns; and

at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:

the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy during a first time period is preceded by a step of providing an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns; and

at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:

the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy during a first time period is preceded by a step of providing a solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns; and

at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 31, wherein:

the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy during a first time period is preceded by a step of providing a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns; and

at least one of the focusing or directing steps comprises focusing or directing laser energy from a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

60. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein at least one of (a) substantially all of the at least one contacting leg and (b) at least part of the housing adjacent to the contacting leg, comprises a transparent material.

61. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 60, wherein the at least one contacting leg and the housing adjacent to the at least one contacting leg comprise a transparent material.

62. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the moisture output comprises water and is constructed to place water into close proximity of the interaction zone simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone.

63. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

64. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

65. ~~(~~Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a~~n Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

66. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

67. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the moisture output comprises water and is constructed to place water into close proximity of the interaction zone simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone.

68. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

69. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

70. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a~~n Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

71. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

72. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a plurality of contacting legs.

73. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 72, wherein the plurality of contacting legs and the housing adjacent to and bridging the plurality of contacting legs comprise a transparent material.

74. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 73, wherein the transparent material comprises a transparent plastic.

75. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein the at least one contacting leg and the housing adjacent to the at least one contacting leg comprise a transparent material.

76. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 75, wherein the transparent material comprises a transparent plastic.

C11

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein the step of simultaneously placing moisture above the plurality of points comprises simultaneously placing water above the plurality of points.

78. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

79. ((Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

81. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 37, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

82. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein the first amounts of moisture comprise a first fluid, the second amounts of moisture comprise a second fluid, and the first and second fluids have different compositions.

83. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein:

a portion of the first amounts of moisture substantially absorb the electromagnetic energy during the first time period, expand, and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface; and

a portion of the second amounts of moisture substantially absorb the electromagnetic energy during the first time period, expand, and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

84. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein at least one of the step of simultaneously placing first amounts of moisture above the plurality of points and the step of simultaneously placing

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second amounts of moisture above the plurality of points comprises simultaneously placing water above the plurality of points.

85. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

86. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

87. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

88. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method as set forth in Claim 38, wherein at least one of the scanning steps comprises scanning laser energy from a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

89. (Previously Added) The method as set forth in Claim 83, wherein in addition to the disruptive forces imparted onto or within the target surface, thermal cutting forces and coagulation are also imparted onto or within the target surface.

C13

90. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to ~~focus or~~ direct electromagnetic energy ~~into~~ along a path from the source of

C13 end

electromagnetic energy to an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface, the source of electromagnetic energy being constructed to focus or direct a peak concentration of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing, the at least one contacting leg comprising a ball constructed to contact a surface and to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed along the path and into the interaction zone, the at least one contacting leg being coupled to the housing in such a way that the ball does not intersect the path; and

a fluid output constructed to place fluid into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the fluid causing the fluid to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

91. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein:

the source of electromagnetic energy and the at least one contacting leg are positioned and coupled to the housing relative to one another in such a way that, when the at least one contacting leg contacts a surface the surface contacted by the at least one contacting leg is in close ~~vicinity~~ proximity to the ~~target surface~~ interaction zone which is aligned to receive focused or concentrated electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy; and

the fluid output comprises a moisture output constructed to place moisture into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by the moisture in the

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interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the moisture causing the moisture to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

92. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 91, wherein in addition to the disruptive forces imparted onto or within the target surface the apparatus imparts thermal cutting forces and coagulation onto or within the target surface.

93. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 91, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a plurality of contacting legs, with each contacting leg comprising a ball.

94. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein the fluid output comprises water and is constructed to simultaneously place water into the interaction zone so that the at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy is absorbed by the at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone.

95. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

96. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

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97. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

98. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 90, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

C15

99. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to focus or direct a peak concentration of electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing, the at least one contacting leg comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a length measured between the proximal end and the distal end, and a width measured in a direction substantially transverse to the length, the distal end of the at least one contacting leg comprising a rounded foot, having a substantially continuously curved surface extending across the width, to thereby facilitate contacting and movement of the at least one contacting leg on and over a surface, the rounded foot being constructed to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed into the interaction zone; ~~and~~

a fluid output constructed to place fluid into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the fluid

C15 cont'd

causing the fluid to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface; and

a source of suction coupled to the at least one contacting leg, the source of suction comprising an orifice and being constructed to receive through the orifice and into the at least one contacting leg fluid from the fluid output.

100. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein:

the source of electromagnetic energy and the at least one contacting leg are positioned and coupled to the housing relative to one another in such a way that, when the rounded foot contacts a surface the surface contacted by the ~~at least one contacting leg~~ rounded foot is in close ~~vicinity~~ proximity to the ~~target surface~~ interaction zone which is aligned to receive focused or concentrated electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy; and

the fluid output comprises a moisture output constructed to place moisture into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the moisture causing the moisture to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

101. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 100, wherein:

the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a laser that is configured and capable of imparting thermal cutting forces and coagulation onto or within a tissue target surface; and

in addition to the disruptive forces imparted onto or within the target surface the apparatus imparts thermal cutting forces and coagulation onto or within the target surface.

102. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a plurality of contacting legs with each contacting leg comprising ~~s~~ a rounded foot.

103. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the fluid output comprises water and is constructed to simultaneously place water into the interaction zone so that the at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy is absorbed by the at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone.

104. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

105. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

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106. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

107. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 99, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

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108. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for imparting disruptive forces onto a target surface, comprising:

a housing;

a source of electromagnetic energy coupled to the housing and constructed to focus or direct a peak concentration of electromagnetic energy into an interaction zone in close proximity to the target surface;

at least one contacting leg coupled to the housing, the at least contacting leg comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a length measured between the proximal end and the distal end, and a width measured in a direction substantially transverse to the length, the distal end of the at least one contacting leg comprising at least one slidable foot with a non-rectangular outer edge to thereby facilitate contacting and sliding of the at least one contacting leg on and over a surface, the slidable foot being constructed to space the interaction zone between the source of electromagnetic energy ~~from~~ and the target surface when the electromagnetic energy is being focused or directed into the interaction zone; ~~and~~

a fluid output constructed to place fluid into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the fluid causing the fluid to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface; and

a source of suction coupled to the at least one contacting leg, the source of suction comprising an orifice and being constructed to receive through the orifice and into the at least one contacting leg fluid from the fluid output.

109. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein in addition to the disruptive forces imparted onto or within the target

surface the apparatus imparts thermal cutting forces and coagulation onto or within the target surface.

110. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108,. wherein the fluid output comprises water and an additive having lubricating properties for facilitating sliding of the slidable foot.

111. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the fluid output comprises soft water.

C18

112. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein:

the source of electromagnetic energy and the at least one contacting leg are positioned and coupled to the housing relative to one another in such a way that, when the slidable foot contacts a surface the surface contacted by the ~~at least one contacting leg~~ slidable foot is in close ~~vicinity~~ proximity to the ~~target surface~~ interaction zone which is aligned to receive focused or concentrated electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy; and

the fluid output comprises a moisture output constructed to place moisture into the interaction zone, simultaneously with the focusing or directing of electromagnetic energy into the interaction zone, the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy being absorbed by the moisture in the interaction zone, and the absorption of the electromagnetic energy by the moisture causing the moisture to expand and impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface.

113. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the at least one contacting leg comprises a plurality of contacting legs.

114. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the fluid output comprises water and is constructed to simultaneously place water into the interaction zone so that the at least part of the electromagnetic energy from the source of electromagnetic energy is absorbed by the at least a portion of the fluid in the interaction zone.

115. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er, Cr:YSGG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.78 microns.

116. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises an Er:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.94 microns.

C18

117. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises ~~an Er:YAG~~ solid state laser having a wavelength in a range of about 2.7 microns to about 2.8 microns.

118. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 108, wherein the source of electromagnetic energy comprises a CTE:YAG solid state laser having a wavelength of about 2.69 microns.

119. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the electromagnetic energy is absorbed by at least part of the moisture to thereby impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface; and wherein thermal cutting forces and coagulation are also imparted onto the target surface by the apparatus.

120. (Previously Added) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 34, wherein

the electromagnetic energy is absorbed by at least part of the moisture to thereby impart disruptive forces onto or within the target surface; and wherein thermal cutting forces and coagulation are also imparted onto the target surface by the apparatus.